

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

02/23/2012 04:50 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest for 2/23/12

## **OPA Daily Digest for 2/23/12**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Rep. William Lacy Clay** (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 2/22/12: Status update on the redevelopment and Brownfields assessment at the Pruitt Igo property in St. Louis. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Rep. Todd Akin** (Mo.) – Letter – 2/7/12: Concerns about soil test data and analysis conducted on Strecker Forest Development property in the city of Wildwood. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Rep. Jeff Fortenberry** (Neb.): Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting information on Brownfield and Superfund sites in Nebraska. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

**Sen. Ben Nelson** (Neb.): Meeting 2/3/12: Requesting that EPA attend a meeting with the Norfolk Chamber of Council – Green Council. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

**Sen. Tom Harkin** (Iowa): Letter – 2/23/12: Constituent concern regarding his annual pesticide registration maintenance fees. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**Kansas City Star** – Mike McGraw – 2/16/12: Questions about civil enforcement actions involving large concentrated animal feeding operations. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

**Omaha World-Herald** – Nancy Gaarder – 2/21/12: Questions about sewer improvement projects in Omaha, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**KCTV Ch. 5 Kansas City** – Heather Staggers – 2/23/12: Inquiry regarding appropriate agency to discuss sick building syndrome. Referred to Kansas City Health Department. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**Columbia Missourian – Jessica Clark** – 2/23/12: Questions regarding power plant emissions and MATS policy. Referred to headquarters. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**Clinton Herald – Ben Jacobson** – 2/22/12: Questions regarding the upcoming Public Meeting and Proposed Plan for the Chemplex Site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

### **Environmental Stories:**

**KMOX Radio - Debate Heats Up Over St. Louis County's West Lake Landfill** - 2/23/12 - Leave it, contain it or move it someplace safer. Those are the options for what to do with very hot nuclear waste in north county's West Lake Landfill. EPA is weighing options for what to do with the material. Ed Smith, with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, says option one is unacceptable.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/02/23/debate-heats-up-over-st-louis-countys-west-lake-landfill/>

**Florissant Patch - West Lake Landfill Becomes Hot Topic at Florissant Council Work Session** - 2/23/12 - Florissant City Councilors discussed a possible resolution for the transfer of the landfill with supporters. It looks like the Florissant City Council will be putting a resolution regarding the West Lake Landfill on the back burner.

<http://florissant.patch.com/articles/west-lake-landfill-becomes-hot-topic-at-florissant-council-work-session>

**Lincoln Journal-Star - State hitting end of road on ethanol incentive** - 2/23/12 - Nebraska is closing the books on EPIC, its Ethanol Production Incentive Cash fund, after two decades of carving out a sizable presence in corn-based renewable fuel. The last gasoline tax credits passed from ethanol producers to fuel users were earned last month by the last eligible plants.

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/state-hitting-end-of-road-on-ethanol-incentive/article\\_fee1a292-a072-5f33-b5a1-5fed8f1e331.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/state-hitting-end-of-road-on-ethanol-incentive/article_fee1a292-a072-5f33-b5a1-5fed8f1e331.html)

**Kansas City Star - KCP&L scales back energy conservation incentives** - 2/23/12 - Kansas City Power & Light's much-heralded proposal to help its customers use less electricity is in disarray, just two months after it was announced.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/22/3446421/kcpl-scales-back-energy-conservation.html>

**Associated Press - Obama to address gas prices, pitch energy policy** - 2/23/12 - President Barack Obama is confronting Americans' anxiety over rising gasoline prices by drawing attention to his energy policies and taking credit for rising oil and gas production, a greater mix of energy sources and decreased consumption. <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/23/3446537/obama-to-address-gas-prices-pitch.html>

**St. Louis Beacon - Treating asthma as a serious public health problem** - 2/23/12 - The American Lung Association is trying to mobilize groups nationwide to fight plans by the Obama administration to consolidate some asthma programs and reduce funding for them.

[https://www.stlbeacon.org/#!/content/21276/asthma\\_cuts?coverpage=166](https://www.stlbeacon.org/#!/content/21276/asthma_cuts?coverpage=166)

**Lawrence Journal-World - Editorial: Water Laws** - 2/23/12 - Short of a major overhaul of Kansas water law, and an attempt to address how the state will fund efforts to protect the quantity and quality of its water, these bills seem to be prudent, although incomplete, efforts that generally could benefit the state's residents. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2012/feb/23/water-laws/>

**Brownfield Ag News - To drink raw milk or not (audio)** - 2/23/12 - The renewed interest in drinking raw milk – instead of pasteurized milk – is being tempered by increasing reports of people becoming sick from it. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2012/02/23/to-drink-raw-milk-or-not/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Government to buy more biobased products (audio - 5 mins)** - 2/23/12 - The Obama Administration is expanding government purchases of biobased products. The President wants to expand the list of biobased products including paints, soaps and detergents developed from farm grown plants, rather than from petroleum.

<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2012/02/22/government-to-buy-more-biobased-products/>

**Kansas City Star - Editorial: New gust of power for wind energy in Kansas** - 2/23/12 - Four years ago former Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius repeatedly promoted the notion that her state had the potential to become the "Saudi Arabia of wind power." In 2012, that boast is getting closer to coming true.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/22/3445920/the-stars-editorial-new-gust-of.html>

**Reuters - Key Missouri River levees seen repaired by March** - 2/23/12 - Repairs to critical Missouri River levees damaged or destroyed by flooding last summer are on schedule to be completed before the traditional start of the runoff season on March 1.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/23/us-flooding-missouri-idUSTRE81M08220120223>

**Inside Climate - GOP Not Listening to Its Own Scientists on Climate Change** - 2/22/12 - A number of

prominent U.S. climate scientists who identify themselves as Republican say their attempts in recent years to educate the GOP leadership on the scientific evidence of man-made climate change have been futile.

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120221/republicans-santorum-romney-gingrich-climate-scientists-scientific-consensus-skeptics-kerry-emanuel>

**Philadelphia Inquirer - Study Raises Concerns About Food Packaging** - 2/22/12 - Is food packaging compromising the effectiveness of your child's vaccines? A recent Harvard School of Public Health study suggesting that it might be has rocked parents and pediatricians nationwide.

[http://articles.philly.com/2012-02-22/news/31087446\\_1\\_immune-response-vaccine-education-center-perfluorinated-compound](http://articles.philly.com/2012-02-22/news/31087446_1_immune-response-vaccine-education-center-perfluorinated-compound)

**Environmental Leader - 90 Energy Star Leaders Cut Energy Use by 20% or More** - 2/23/12 - Nearly half of organizations in the EPA's Energy Star Leaders program have improved the energy efficiency of their building portfolios by 20 percent or more, the agency has announced.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2012/02/23/90-energy-star-leaders-cut-energy-use-by-20-or-more/>

**E&E News PM - Work continues on new regulation to clarify federal jurisdiction -- EPA** - 2/22/12 - U.S. EPA says work continues on a new rule to clarify which rivers, streams and wetlands are subject to federal pollution protections under the Clean Water Act.

<http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2012/02/22/8>

**The New York Times - Editorial: The Job-Creating Mercury Rule** - 2/23/12 - We don't expect such logic to change Mr. Inhofe's mind or the Republicans' political strategy. President Obama has a strong case to make for these environmental rules and for the clean energy jobs that come with them. He needs to keep making it. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/23/opinion/the-job-creating-mercury-rule.html>

**Bloomberg - Editorial: Maximize Promise of Fracking by Solving Safety Problems** - 2/23/12 - The public still has well-founded concerns about the safety of fracking. None justify the level of anti-fracking rhetoric among some critics, who seem to think the energy they consume can be magically conjured without so much as the eyesore of a drilling platform. But some legitimate issues need to be addressed. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-23/maximize-promise-of-fracking-by-solving-safety-problems-view.html>

**Society of Environmental Journalists - Should Taxpayers Be Able To Read the Research They Pay For? Congress Not Sure** - 2/22/12 - Congress is unsure of whether the taxpaying public should be allowed to read the scientific research that they have paid for. A bill that would mandate open public access, free of charge, to papers resulting from federally funded research is currently languishing in the GOP-controlled House.

<http://www.sej.org/publications/watchdog-tipsheet/should-taxpayers-be-able-read-research-they-pay-congress-not-sure>

**National Resources Defense Council - NRDC Lawsuit Seeks to Ban Agent Orange Ingredient from Weed and Feed Products** - 2/23/12 - Seeking to ban a World War II-era toxic weed killer ingredient called 2,4-D, the Natural Resources Defense Council today filed a lawsuit in federal court against EPA for their failure to respond to a 2008 petition to cancel all registrations and revoke all tolerances of this known neurotoxin and ingredient in Agent Orange. <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2012/120223.asp>

**Chemistry World - EPA sets safe dioxin level** - 2/23/12 - EPA has released its non-cancer science assessment for dioxins after nearly three decades of delays - to a mixture of responses from stakeholders. This report establishes for the first time a reference dose for dioxin exposure in the US, which could be used for regulation.

<http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/News/2012/February/epa-dioxins-exposure-level.asp>

**BNA - Commenters Say Reconsidered Boiler Rules An Improvement But Other Changes Needed** - 2/23/12 - The reconsidered air toxics standards for boilers and incinerators that were proposed in

December 2011 are an improvement over standards EPA rushed to issue in March 2011, several commenters said.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=24708613&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708613&jd=a0d0v0h0x0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24708613&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708613&jd=a0d0v0h0x0&split=0)

**BNB - Oil, Natural Gas Groups Sue Agency Over Greenhouse Gas Reporting Revisions** - 1/23/12 - Oil and natural gas industry groups have challenged an EPA rule requiring petroleum and gas drilling operations to report 2011 greenhouse gas emissions from wells and storage tanks on a county level and by geologic formation.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=24708607&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708607&jd=a0d0u9h4k4&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24708607&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708607&jd=a0d0u9h4k4&split=0)

**BNB - Attorneys Say Supreme Court Decision Could Open Up More EPA Actions to Challenge** - 2/23/12 - If the U.S. Supreme Court finds a preliminary EPA administrative compliance order issued in a wetlands case to be a "final agency action" subject to judicial review, other preliminary actions under the Clean Water Act could be open to legal challenge, a Pacific Legal Foundation attorney said at a Feb. 21 webinar.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=24708592&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708592&jd=a0d0u8c1t6&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24708592&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708592&jd=a0d0u8c1t6&split=0)

**BNB - Environmental Advocates Urge Agencies To Be More Protective in Chemical Analyses** - 2/23/12 - Federal assessments of chemicals should be more protective of human health than they have been, environmental health advocates said in an issue paper released Feb. 22.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=24708617&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708617&jd=a0d0v2q0x2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24708617&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24708617&jd=a0d0v2q0x2&split=0)

**Inside EPA - State Energy Regulators Double Size Of EPA Rules Group, Expand Role** - 2/22/12 - The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has doubled the membership of a committee responsible for educating members about EPA regulations and has expanded the group's role to serve as the state regulators' liaison with federal and other agencies involved in tracking and shaping intertwined environment and reliability issues, according to the chairman of the new group.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201202222391052/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/state-energy-regulators-double-size-of-epa-rules-group-expand-role/menu-id-202.html>

**Inside EPA (blog) - Obama Readies Energy Policy Speech** - 2/22/12 - President Obama is poised to give a Feb. 23 speech on energy policy that is likely to elaborate on White House plans to boost energy production and stem rising fuel prices, in the latest effort by the administration to stay ahead of the political threat posed by energy costs in an election year.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201202222391061/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Blogging-Clean-Energy/obama-readies-energy-policy-speech/menu-id-204.html>

**Inside EPA - Industry Seeks To Dismiss Pesticide 'Mega' Suit In Bid To Speed Settlement** - 2/22/12 - Chemical industry groups are urging a federal court to dismiss environmentalists' controversial "mega" suit that seeks to force EPA to weigh the impacts of hundreds of pesticides on scores of endangered species, but an industry source says officials do not expect their recently filed motion to undermine ongoing talks to settle the case.

<http://insideepa.com/201202232391132/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-seeks-to-dismiss-pesticide-mega-suit-in-bid-to-speed-settlement/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - Gas Price Concerns Seen Prompting EPA To Ease Pending 'Tier III' Fuel Rule** - 2/22/12 - EPA may ease its pending "Tier III" fuel and vehicle emission rules by dropping plans to tighten limits on fuel volatility, sources say, possibly due to fears that Republicans could benefit politically by claiming stricter volatility limits will exacerbate rising gas prices -- which President Obama is expected to address in an energy speech Feb. 23.

<http://insideepa.com/201202232391133/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/gas-price-concerns-seen-prompting-epa-to-ease-pending-tier-iii-fuel-rule/menu-id-95.html>

**Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

**Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

**Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**2/29-3/2/12** – 2012 Combined Federal Campaign Training, San Antonio, Texas. Contacts: Mark Hague, 7546, and Julia Cacho, 7071

**3/6/12** - Smoke Management Series radio interview with Eric Atkinson, Kansas State University, Regional Office. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**3/14/12** – Environmental Protection in Indian Country (EPIC) Training, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

**\*3/15/12** – Women's History Month event with Kay Barnes, Regional Office. Contacts: Cecilia Tapia, 7733 and Amy Algoe-Eakin, 7942.

**3/19/12** - National Tanks Conference & Expo, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Margaret Stockdale, 7936 and Julia Cacho, 7071

**3/28/12** – Joint Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association and Missouri Water Environment Association, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071, Karen Flournoy, 7782

**\*3/30/12** – Kansas State University visit, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Damon Frizell, 7560

**4/24/12** – Washington University Environmental Policy Course, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Beckie Himes, 7253, and Julia Cacho, 7071

**5/3/12** – St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association Energy and Environment Council Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Becky Weber, 7487 and Julia Cacho, 7071

**RA/Immediate Office**

**\*2/28 - 3/1/12** - Attend Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Meeting, Davenport, Iowa Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

**3/13/12** - Northeast Nebraska Stakeholders, West Point, Neb. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

**Other Events****AWMD**

**3/1/12** - Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

**3/9/12** – Redistribution of EPA Region 7 outreach materials to Education Network members, Regional Office. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669.

**3/27 – 29/12** – 2012 WORKS Conference (recycling, household hazardous waste, energy from Waste and composting), Dodge City, Kan. Contact: James Callier, 7646

**3/28/12** - Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Outreach to the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

**3/28/12** - Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, EPCRA outreach meeting, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

**4/3-5/12** - Kansas Local Emergency Planning Committee conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

**4/26/12** - Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Outreach to Sunbelt Environmental, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

#### **CNSL**

**2/29 - 3/2/12** - Advanced Civil Environmental Enforcement Seminar, Columbia, S.C. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

**3/12-15/12** - FEM/TEM meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Alyse Stoy, 7826

#### **ECO/EJ**

**\*3/21/12** - Oak Grove Neighborhood Meeting with Karl Books, Regional Office. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

#### **ENSV**

None

#### **PLMG**

**2/28/12** - Society of American Military Engineers Industry Day Education and Training Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

#### **RA/OPA**

**2/27/12** – Public Availability Session, 10th Street Site, Columbus Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**2/28/12** – Public Meeting, Chemplex Site, Camanche, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**\*2/29-3/1/12** – State Legislature, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**3/6/12** – Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Legislative Liaison, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**3/7/12** – Meetings with the offices of U.S. Senators Harkin and Grassley, and U.S. Representatives Boswell and Latham, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**3/8/12** – Attend Iowa Legislature Committee meetings, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

## **SUPR**

**2/24/12** - Mercury and Hazardous Categorization (HazCat) Training for First Responders, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

**\*2/27/12** - Chemplex Public Meeting, Camanche, Iowa. Contact: Nancy Swyers, 7703.

**2/28/12** - 10th Street Site Public Availability Session, Columbus, Neb. Contacts: Nancy Swyers, 7703 and Eric Nold, 7488

**3/1/12** - Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Mary Peterson, 7882

**3/13-14/12** - FEMA's Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625

**4/10-12/12** - Oil Program Manager's meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**3/27-29/12** - OSC Readiness Training Board meeting, location TBD. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**4/17-19/12** - Region 7 Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

**5/1-3/12** - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, location TBD, Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

## **WWPD**

**2/28-29/12** - Kansas Water Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

**3/1/12** - Kansas Rural Water Association workplan meeting, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Stephanie Lindberg, 7423

**3/5-7/12** - 2012 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Steve Kovac, 7698, John Reyna, 7021

**3/12-15/12** - Joint Water Quality Standards Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

**3/26-29/12** - 2012 Kansas Rural Water Association Conference & Exposition, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Doug Brune, 7178

**4/16-20/12** - National TMDL/303(d) Coordinators Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067

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